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International drug control

International cooperation against the world drug problem

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report has been prepared pursuant to General Assembly resolution 59/163 of 20 December 2004, entitled "International cooperation against the world drug problem", in which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit to it at its sixtieth session a report on the implementation of that resolution. The report provides an overview of international cooperation aimed at combating the world drug problem, in particular the implementation of mandates relating to the outcome of the twentieth special session of the General Assembly, devoted to countering the world drug problem together, held from 8 to 10 June 1998.

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I. Introduction

1. In its resolution 59/163 of 20 December 2004, entitled "International cooperation against the world drug problem", the General Assembly reaffirmed its commitment to the outcome of its twentieth special session, devoted to countering the world drug problem together, held in New York from 8 to 10 June 1998. Aware that progress had been uneven in meeting the goals set out in the Political Declaration adopted by the Assembly at the twentieth special session (resolution S-20/2, annex), as reflected in the biennial reports of the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the Assembly recognized that the drug problem remained a global challenge posing a serious threat to public health and safety and the well-being of humankind, in particular children and young people, and that it undermined socio-economic and political stability and sustainable development, including efforts to reduce poverty. In section II of the resolution, the Assembly reaffirmed the Joint Ministerial Statement and further measures to implement the action plans emanating from the twentieth special session of the Assembly, adopted during the ministerial segment of the forty-sixth session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (A/58/124, sect. II.A); called upon all States to strengthen their efforts in the fight against the world drug problem, in order to achieve the objectives targeted for 2008 in the Political Declaration; and stressed that data collection, analysis and evaluation of the results of ongoing national and international policies were essential tools for further developing sound, evidence-based drug control strategies.

2. In section II of resolution 59/163, the General Assembly also urged all Member States to implement the Action Plan for the Implementation of the Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction (Assembly resolution 54/132, annex) and to strengthen their national efforts to counter the abuse of illicit drugs, in particular among children and young people; and urged States, in order to achieve a significant and measurable reduction of drug abuse by 2008, to further implement comprehensive demand reduction policies and programmes, including research, covering all the drugs under international control, in order to raise public awareness, and to further develop and implement comprehensive demand reduction policies.

3. In the same resolution, in the area of illicit synthetic drugs, the Assembly urged States to renew their efforts to implement the comprehensive measures covered in the Action Plan against Illicit Manufacture, Trafficking and Abuse of Amphetamine-type Stimulants and Their Precursors (see Assembly resolution S-20/4 A). Concerning control of substances, the Assembly encouraged States to establish or strengthen mechanisms and procedures to ensure strict control of substances listed in the international drug control treaties and used to manufacture illicit drugs of natural and synthetic origin. With respect to control of precursors, the Assembly encouraged States to establish or strengthen mechanisms and procedures to ensure strict control of chemical precursors used in such illicit manufacture and to support international operations aimed at preventing the diversion of chemical precursors.

4. In the area of judicial cooperation, the Assembly called upon States to strengthen international cooperation among judicial and law enforcement authorities at all levels in order to prevent and combat illicit drug trafficking and to share and

promote best operational practices in order to interdict illicit drug trafficking. In the area of countering money-laundering, the Assembly urged States to strengthen action aimed at preventing and combating the laundering of proceeds derived from drug trafficking and related criminal activities, with the support of the United Nations system, international institutions such as the World Bank and regional development banks, to develop and strengthen comprehensive international regimes to combat money-laundering, and to improve information-sharing among financial institutions and agencies in charge of preventing and detecting the laundering of those proceeds. The Assembly also called upon States to consider including provisions in their national drug control plans for the establishment of national networks to enhance their respective capabilities to prevent, monitor, control and suppress serious offences connected with money-laundering and the financing of terrorist acts, and in general to counter all acts of transnational organized crime.

5. In the area of illicit crop eradication and alternative development, the Assembly called upon States to enhance support, including, where appropriate, through the provision of new and additional financial resources, for alternative development, environmental protection and eradication programmes undertaken by countries affected by the illicit cultivation of cannabis, especially in Africa, of opium poppy and of coca bush; to enhance joint strategies, through international and regional cooperation, to strengthen alternative development, eradication and interdiction capacity, with the aim of eliminating illicit crop cultivation and fostering economic and social development; to encourage international cooperation, including, as appropriate, preventive alternative development, to prevent illicit crop cultivation from emerging in or being relocated to other areas; to provide, in accordance with the principle of shared responsibility, greater access to their markets for products of alternative development programmes, which were necessary for the creation of employment and the eradication of poverty; and to continue contributing to the maintenance of a balance between the licit supply of and demand for opiate raw materials used for medical and scientific purposes and to cooperate in preventing the proliferation of sources of production of opiate raw materials.

6. In section III of its resolution 59/163, the General Assembly encouraged the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, as the global coordinating body in international drug control and as the governing body of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme, and the International Narcotics Control Board to continue their useful work on the control of precursors and other chemicals used in the illicit manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances. The Assembly welcomed the efforts of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to implement its mandate, and requested the Office to strengthen dialogue with Member States and also to ensure continued improvement in management, so as to contribute to enhanced and sustainable programme delivery; to strengthen cooperation with Member States and with United Nations programmes, funds and relevant agencies, as well as relevant regional organizations and agencies and non-governmental organizations; and to provide, on request, assistance in implementing the outcome of the twentieth special session. The Assembly encouraged the meetings of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies and of the Subcommission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs to continue to contribute to the strengthening of regional and international cooperation, taking into account the outcome of the twentieth special session and the ministerial segment of the

forty-sixth session of the Commission. Finally, the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit to the Assembly at its sixtieth session a report on the implementation of the resolution.

II. International cooperation to counter the world drug problem and follow-up to the twentieth special session of the General Assembly

A. Follow-up by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and its subsidiary bodies

7. In paragraph 20 of the Political Declaration adopted by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session, the Assembly requested all States to report biennially to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on their efforts to meet the goals and targets for the years 2003 and 2008. In its resolution 42/11, the Commission requested the Executive Director to submit biennial reports for its examination at its regular sessions in 2001, 2003, 2005, 2007 and 2008. The Assembly also requested the Commission to analyse those reports in order to enhance the cooperative effort to combat the world drug problem.

8. At its forty-eighth session, held in Vienna from 7 to 11 March 2005, the Commission considered the third biennial report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime on the world drug problem (E/CN.7/2005/2 and Adds.1-6), drawing upon the responses of Member States to the biennial reports questionnaire covering the period June 2002 to June 2004.

9. The Commission welcomed the fact that the third biennial report of the Executive Director indicated that considerable progress continued to be made by Member States towards meeting the goals set for 2008 at the twentieth special session of the General Assembly. It was also noted that the report drew attention to areas requiring further efforts by the international community, such as the need to promote and strengthen international cooperation through enhanced mutual legal assistance and exchange of information; prevention, treatment and rehabilitation programmes; reducing the negative health and social consequences of drug abuse; capacity-building; programme coordination; monitoring and evaluation; raising awareness of the problems associated with amphetamine-type stimulants and preventing experimentation by young people; and precursor control. The Commission also noted that many Member States needed to make greater efforts to provide full and timely responses to the biennial questionnaires, in order to obtain the most accurate results from the reporting process.

10. At its forty-eighth session, the Commission stressed that the international community should be innovative in its action to follow up on the twentieth special session, in order to be able to deal with new developments, such as the challenges faced by countries suffering from the transit of illicit drugs through their territory. Many Governments had adopted, updated or made progress in the implementation of national drug control strategies or action plans, which were essential to ensuring the planning and coordination of comprehensive drug control activities, covering action involving health, education, law enforcement and other relevant authorities and for promoting a balanced multidisciplinary approach. Reference was made to

regional approaches and tools for strengthening cooperation and the coordination of drug control policies.

11. At the same session, Member States voiced their concern about the challenges and threats posed by the phenomenon of globalization, and its exploitation by criminal groups, and by the links between drug trafficking, terrorism and national and transnational organized crime. The need was stressed to make international cooperation more effective, in particular among judicial and law enforcement authorities. The successes achieved through bilateral, regional and multilateral agreements and arrangements between States were recalled, in particular in the areas of mutual legal assistance, extradition, cooperation among law enforcement agencies, exchange of information, sharing of experience and controlled delivery. Reference was made to existing mechanisms for fostering international cooperation, such as the mechanism for issuing the European arrest warrant.

12. In the area of international cooperation in eradication of illicit opium poppy and coca bush cultivation and in curbing illicit opium and cocaine production, the Commission at its forty-eighth session emphasized that the sustainability of eradication efforts needed to be ensured and that particular efforts were required to alleviate poverty among former opium poppy and coca growers, particularly during the transitional period immediately after they had abandoned opium poppy cultivation and that, in the Andean region, alternative development had not kept pace with the sustained eradication of illicit crops because of a lack of resources. Regarding efforts to eradicate cannabis cultivation, a number of countries were reported to be studying cannabis cultivation and its socio-economic impact and assessing the feasibility of implementing alternative development programmes to tackle illicit cannabis cultivation. In that context, several countries had appealed for assistance from the international community in support of their efforts.

B. Action taken by Governments and international cooperation to counter the world drug problem and follow-up to the twentieth special session

13. The third biennial report of the Executive Director and its addenda (E/CN.7/2005/2 and Adds.1-6) submitted to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at its forty-eighth session provided an overview and a detailed analysis of the efforts by Governments to implement the action plans and measures emanating from the twentieth special session of the General Assembly: (a) the Action Plan for the Implementation of the Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction (Assembly resolution 54/132); (b) the Action Plan on International Cooperation on the Eradication of Illicit Drug Crops and on Alternative Development (Assembly resolution S-20/4 E); (c) measures to promote judicial cooperation (Assembly resolution S-20/4 C); (d) the Action Plan against Illicit Manufacture, Trafficking and Abuse of Amphetamine-type Stimulants and Their Precursors (Assembly resolution S-20/4 A); (e) control of precursors (Assembly resolution S-20/4 B); and (f) countering money-laundering (Assembly resolution S-20/4 D).

14. A total of 93 States[1] responded to at least one part of the third biennial reports questionnaire (2002-2004) on the basis of which the third biennial report of the

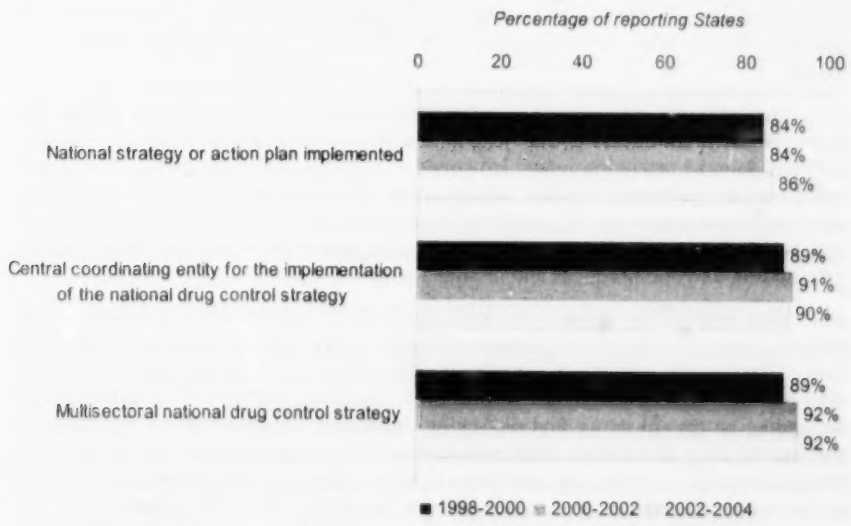
Executive Director on the world drug problem was prepared. The number of responses received in 2004 was below that received in the second reporting period (2000-2002) (117 responses). A total of 81 responses were received for the preparation of the first biennial report 1998-2000 (E/CN.7/2001/2), which, following the forty-fourth regular session of the Commission, was revised to incorporate a further 28 replies. This was reflected in the consolidated first biennial report (E/CN.7/2001/16), which the Commission considered at its reconvened session, in December 2001, reflecting a total of 109 responses. The present chapter summarizes the analysis of the responses received in the third reporting period.

1. National drug control strategies

15. National drug control strategies provide a valuable mechanism for the planning and coordination of drug control policies and activities at the national level, including interaction among law enforcement, health, education, economic development and other sectors, as well as for promoting a balanced approach between demand and supply reduction. The majority of States replying to the third biennial report questionnaire (91 States) had adopted or updated their national drug control strategy or plan, while others indicated that a plan or strategy was under preparation. Of the responding Governments, 90 per cent had established a central authority charged with coordinating the implementation of the national drug strategy and 92 per cent indicated that its strategy was multisectoral in nature covering, inter alia, health, social programmes, education, law enforcement, justice, employment or other areas. The involvement of non-governmental organizations, civil society associations, churches, charitable funds and communities in the formulation and implementation of national drug strategies took place in almost all responding countries (see figure I).

Figure I

National drug control strategies adopted, 1998-2000, 2000-2002 and 2002-2004



16. The data provided by States indicate that the majority of reporting Governments have taken steps to implement the action envisaged at the twentieth special session of the General Assembly with regard to the establishment of national drug control plans or strategies and appropriate coordination and implementation mechanisms, reflecting the high priority accorded by Member States to countering the drug problem through a balanced and comprehensive multisectoral approach.

2. Demand reduction

17. At the twentieth special session, Member States committed themselves to achieving significant and measurable results in the field of demand reduction by the year 2008. The responses to the biennial reports questionnaire in 2004 indicated that most Governments had developed comprehensive drug demand reduction strategies. Countries in all regions have kept their high level of commitment during the three reporting periods. The situation regarding the implementation of demand reduction programmes had improved in sub-Saharan Africa and Europe, while countries in Central, South and South-West Asia seemed to have fallen back to the levels reported for the biennium 1998-2000. Most regions had established a good degree of partnership between the relevant authorities and other sectors of society. Some of the reported increases in collaboration or networking mechanisms were a reflection of a broader trend towards the decentralization of demand reduction efforts to the regional and municipal levels in some regions. This was particularly the case in Latin America and the Caribbean. On average, over 60 per cent of States responding to the questionnaire in the three reporting periods (1998-2000, 2000-2002 and 2002-2004) indicated that demand reduction activities were based on epidemiological assessments of the drug abuse situation. Well-developed drug information systems were available in Europe and North America, whereas the situation in sub-Saharan Africa, North Africa and the Middle East could be further improved and significant progress was being made in other regions, including Latin America and the Caribbean, Central, South and South-West Asia and East and South-East Asia, with the establishment of mechanisms for monitoring drug abuse trends.

18. The majority of countries responded positively concerning training for planners and practitioners and the evaluation of strategies and activities to improve national demand reduction plans. However, in relation to specific types of demand reduction interventions, under 30 per cent of reporting countries conducted systematic evaluation of the results of their interventions. Moreover, only Europe and North America seemed to have been also relatively active in disseminating information on good practices and lessons learned.

19. Most responding States have built the political and strategic foundations for effective demand reduction strategies, although further action is needed to improve data collection and evaluation capacity in order to support the development of future interventions. The trend in the abuse of illicit drugs presents a diverse picture depending on the substance and the region. Increases, stabilization and decreases in patterns of drug abuse have been reported in various regions. Taking into account this situation, prevention initiatives should be increased in scale so that they cover a wider range of settings and target groups, including those at greater risk, and national and regional prevention initiatives should be expanded and sustained in

order to meet the targets for 2008. Further investments appear to be required for the provision of treatment and rehabilitation, in particular in Latin America and the Caribbean and in East and South-East Asia. More resources also seem to be required for initiatives focusing on special needs and one of the major challenges remains the reduction of the negative health and social consequences of drug abuse. A significant change in these areas will require sustained long-term efforts.

3. Illicit synthetic drugs

20. In the Political Declaration adopted by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session, the Assembly called for the strengthening or establishing by the year 2003 of national legislation and programmes giving effect to the Action Plan against Illicit Manufacture, Trafficking and Abuse of Amphetamine-type Stimulants and Their Precursors and decided to devote particular attention to the measures for the control of precursors and to establish the year 2008 as a target date for States to eliminate or significantly reduce the illicit manufacture, marketing and trafficking of psychotropic substances, including synthetic drugs, and the diversion of precursors.

21. On the basis of the biennial reports questionnaire, there was a decline in the proportion of Governments that reported having taken measures to detect the clandestine manufacture of amphetamine-type stimulants (53 per cent during the 2002-2004 period, compared with 63 per cent in the 2000-2002 period). However, improvement was registered at the regional level with regard to the monitoring of the manufacturing methods used in clandestine laboratories, including the monitoring of the trade in tableting machines and technical equipment required for the illicit manufacture of amphetamine-type stimulants. During the 2002-2004 period, 54 per cent of reporting States (60 per cent in 2000-2002) had adopted specific measures to improve the operational capabilities of forensic laboratories and the provision of technical training for law enforcement and regulatory personnel on matters related to amphetamine-type stimulants increased. Over one third of the responding Governments (33 per cent) took measures to control substances not covered by the international drug control conventions, but for which special surveillance had been recommended. These measures related in particular to those substances included in the limited international special surveillance list established by the International Narcotics Control Board. Almost half of the reporting Governments (48 per cent) had enhanced cooperation with the chemical industry to prevent the diversion of precursors of amphetamine-type stimulants and with the pharmaceutical industry (42 per cent) to prevent the diversion of licit pharmaceuticals containing amphetamine-type stimulants. Further measures and more effective action continued to be taken by Governments to prevent the irresponsible marketing and prescribing of amphetamine-type stimulants.

22. Member States have achieved considerable progress in the implementation of the Action Plan against Illicit Manufacture, Trafficking and Abuse of Amphetamine-type Stimulants and Their Precursors. Nevertheless, additional efforts are needed in order to achieve the targets set for 2008, in particular in order to raise awareness of the problem of amphetamine-type stimulants, reduce illicit demand and prevent drug experimentation by youth, as well as to improve the operational capabilities of forensic laboratories and establish effective cooperation between the authorities and the chemical and pharmaceutical industries. Effective implementation of the Action

Plan requires the further strengthening of international cooperation at the bilateral, regional and international levels.

4. Control of precursors

23. The third biennial report of the Executive Director reported that more States than in the first and second reporting cycles had established a framework for the control of precursors. This included systems of prior import/export notification, measures to identify and trace traders in precursors ("know-your-client" principle), measures to provide and/or request end-user certificates, as well as setting up procedures to investigate the diversion of chemicals and to identify and dismantle clandestine laboratories. The effective implementation of prior import/export notification systems had enabled competent national authorities to verify the legitimacy of transactions and to identify suspicious shipments, thus preventing diversion of precursor chemicals. While good progress had been made in the control of precursors through, inter alia, the implementation of the prior import/export notification system by States, lack of resources and technical know-how and loopholes in the legislation and/or regulatory frameworks remained obstacles to further improvement in some countries and regions. Governments need to provide sufficient material and human resources to ensure the effective functioning of national precursor control systems and increase their efforts to ensure that officials engaged in the control of precursors receive the training required to facilitate the operation of those systems.

24. Notwithstanding the above, the majority of reporting States (80 per cent) had enhanced their legal framework, having in place precursor control legislation, and 60 per cent had enacted new or revised laws, compared with 55 per cent in the second reporting period. Most reporting States (83 per cent) had placed under control substances listed in Tables I and II of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988,[2] and an increased proportion (88 per cent, compared with 84 per cent in the second reporting period) had established a framework that included a system of prior import and export notification. In the third reporting period, 63 per cent of States (compared with 56 per cent in the second) were implementing the recommendations of the International Narcotics Control Board concerning the limited international special surveillance list of non-scheduled substances and over one third of respondents had introduced penal sanctions in their legislation as a means of preventing the diversion of precursors.

25. States also reported action in relation to the implementation of controlled deliveries, the sharing of information, the establishment of cooperation with the chemical and pharmaceutical industries and the adoption of procedures to identify and report the use of substitute chemicals and new methods of illicit drug manufacture. Only 26 per cent of respondents reported that the seizure of precursor chemicals was the result of cooperation with other States. However, several multilateral international initiatives for the control of precursors, such as Operation Topaz, Operation Purple and Project Prism, coordinated by the International Narcotics Control Board, had enjoyed notable successes. Reference was also made to Operation Six Borders in Latin America, which had facilitated international cooperation on precursor control.

26. States should strengthen partnerships with the private sector by developing codes of conduct with the chemical and pharmaceutical industries and enhancing cooperation with companies engaged in licit trade in precursors, for example by introducing the "know-your-client" principle. States should further strengthen international cooperation, inter alia in the exchange of information among competent authorities, including through the International Narcotics Control Board, and in the implementation of controlled deliveries and joint law enforcement investigations, including backtracking operations.

27. In connection with further international cooperation on the control of precursors, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, in its resolution 48/11, entitled "Strengthening international cooperation to prevent the illicit manufacture of and trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances by preventing the diversion and smuggling of precursors and essential equipment in the context of Project Prism, Operation Purple and Operation Topaz", drew the attention of Member States to further measures to enhance the control of precursors and, in particular, called upon Member States to take careful note of the third biennial report of the Executive Director on the world drug problem and in particular of its addendum on the control of precursors (E/CN.7/2005/2 and Add.5), in order to take required implementation measures and action.

5. Judicial cooperation

28. In the Political Declaration adopted by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session, States were encouraged to review and strengthen the measures to promote judicial cooperation adopted at the special session (Assembly resolution S-20/4 C). The international drug control treaties provide the framework for international cooperation in countering the drug problem, enjoying almost universal adherence. Most States continued enhancing their legal framework in order to facilitate international judicial cooperation. Of the States responding to the biennial report questionnaire for 2002-2004, 85 per cent had implemented legislation on extradition and 31 per cent had strengthened extradition procedures for drug-related cases, bringing to 70 the total number of States that reported revising or reviewing their procedures since the twentieth special session.

29. Most States (82 per cent) responding in the third reporting period had adopted legislation on mutual legal assistance; approximately one third had also reviewed mutual legal assistance procedures. Most States (74 per cent, compared with 70 per cent for the 2000-2002 period) had entered into bilateral legal assistance agreements and many had entered into multilateral legal assistance agreements (67 per cent, compared with 60 per cent two years earlier). Progress also took place in law enforcement cooperation and information exchange, with 78 per cent of responding States operating exchange programmes with other States, often based on bilateral, multilateral, regional or subregional agreements and arrangements.

30. The international framework on judicial cooperation has been considerably strengthened since the twentieth special session of the General Assembly in 1998, although the non-extradition of nationals remains an important barrier to extradition. The legislation in almost half of the States responding in 2004 precluded or limited the extradition of nationals, a proportion that has remained stable since 1998. States referred to a number of other impediments leading to the refusal of requests for extradition, such as the absence of dual criminality, statute of

limitations, the political nature of the offence and procedural or formal deficiencies. Differences between legal systems, language problems and lack of resources posed further obstacles to the implementation of requests for extradition and mutual legal assistance. Similar difficulties, as well as logistical and technical problems and lack of experience and expertise, were also reported to affect the execution of controlled deliveries and international maritime cooperation to combat drug trafficking by sea. The responses indicate that further action is required to ensure successful implementation of the measures to promote judicial cooperation adopted at the twentieth special session.

6. Countering money-laundering

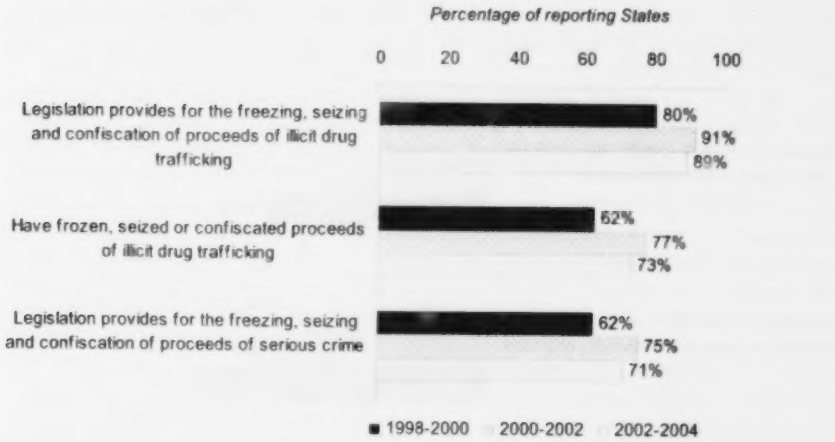
31. The twentieth special session of the General Assembly set the year 2003 as the target date for the adoption of national money-laundering legislation and programmes, in accordance with relevant provisions of the 1988 Convention. Most States (88 per cent) reporting in the third biennial report questionnaire, for the period 2002-2004, had adopted legislation criminalizing the laundering of proceeds derived from drug trafficking, an increase of 8 per cent since the first reporting cycle. A further 8 per cent were in the process of adopting legislative measures in that regard. Laundering proceeds derived from other serious crimes was a criminal offence in 76 per cent of the States reporting in the third reporting period, while a further 8 per cent reported they were planning to introduce legislative measures to do so. Money-laundering was considered a serious offence in most countries (86 per cent), as well as an extraditable offence (70 per cent). Two thirds of the replying States explained that these legislative frameworks had enabled investigations, prosecutions or convictions for money-laundering offences in their jurisdiction.

32. The legislation of most of the States (89 per cent) replying to the questionnaire in 2004 provided for the freezing, seizure and confiscation of the proceeds from drug trafficking offences and for the freezing, seizure and confiscation of proceeds derived from other serious crimes (71 per cent). Nearly three quarters of the respondents (73 per cent) had also successfully frozen, seized or confiscated proceeds from illicit drug trafficking, compared with 62 per cent in the reporting period 2000-2002 (see figure II).

33. While significant progress continued to be made towards achieving the goals set at the twentieth special session in the field of combating money-laundering, further improvement is still possible, in particular in the areas of legislative measures, the establishment of financial intelligence units and international cooperation. Several States referred to constraints faced during investigative, prosecution and trial phases, in particular the lack of financial resources and trained personnel to secure confiscation of assets. They also stressed the need for increased technical assistance to ensure that all States have the capacity to combat money-laundering and to facilitate international cooperation by removing the impediments to mutual legal assistance, including, in particular, bank secrecy. Support for the establishment of financial intelligence units, which could serve as a link between law enforcement, financial and regulatory authorities, is a key factor in attaining the goals set at the twentieth special session.

Figure II

Freezing, seizure and confiscation of proceeds derived from drug trafficking or other serious crimes, 1998-2000, 2000-2002 and 2002-2004



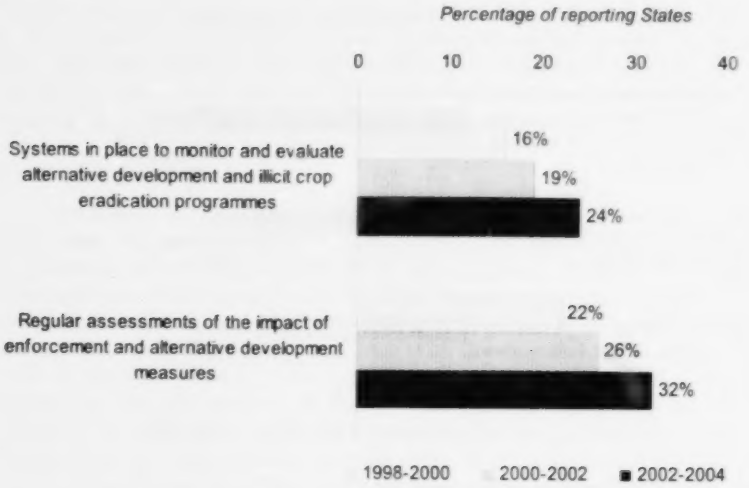
7. Crop eradication and alternative development

34. In the Political Declaration adopted at the twentieth special session of the General Assembly, Member States committed themselves to developing strategies to eliminate or reduce significantly the illicit cultivation of coca bush, cannabis plant and opium poppy by the year 2008. All countries where significant illicit coca bush cultivation takes place (Bolivia, Colombia and Peru) and most of those where illicit opium poppy cultivation takes place (Afghanistan, Colombia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Mexico, Myanmar and Viet Nam) responded to the biennial reports questionnaire in 2004.

35. Most States implementing alternative development and/or illicit crop eradication programmes reported that their programmes were balanced and multifaceted, supporting institution-building at the local and regional levels, as well as community development activities. They also reported that their alternative development programmes provided for participatory approaches and took into account gender issues, the poorest and most vulnerable groups, environmental concerns and drug demand reduction.

36. A larger proportion of States were monitoring illicit crop cultivation using methodologies such as ground surveys (41 States), aerial photography (24 States) and satellite imagery (11 States) (see figure III). Half of the States responding to the questionnaire reported that they shared information at the national, regional and international levels. For the third reporting period, 22 countries (24 per cent of respondents) reported having systems enabling the monitoring and quantitative and qualitative evaluation of the impact of programmes for alternative development and eradication of illicit crops. A total of 39 countries or 32 per cent of respondents reported that they assessed the impact of such measures on a regular basis (see figure III above).

Figure III
Alternative development and illicit crop eradication monitoring and evaluation, 1998-2000, 2000-2002 and 2002-2004



37. The main countries affected by illicit opium poppy and coca bush cultivation continued to make good progress towards the reduction and elimination of illicit crops. Excluding Afghanistan, the total area under illicit opium poppy cultivation worldwide in 2004 amounted to 32 per cent of the total area under such cultivation in 1994, while potential opium production in 2004 amounted to 29 per cent of that in 1994. Regarding the eradication of illicit coca bush cultivation, considerable progress had been made by 2003, the last year for which complete figures were available, when illicit coca bush cultivation was less than half of its level in 1994. With regard to cannabis cultivation, no such comparable data exists, but it is clear that further efforts by the international community are urgently needed.

38. Lack of financial resources remained the major obstacle identified by Governments to the implementation of alternative development programmes, together with lack of supporting structures, technical expertise and adequate coordination mechanisms. Only 20 per cent of States reporting in 2004 indicated that they had provided alternative development assistance to other States on a bilateral, regional or multilateral basis in the 2002-2004 reporting period, compared to 27 per cent over the 2000-2002 period. In order to meet the targets set for 2008, those countries most affected by illicit crop cultivation need additional and sustained support from the international community, including in the areas of capacity-building, programme coordination and the establishment of monitoring and impact evaluation systems, as well as longer-term socio-economic development, to prevent the re-emergence of illicit crops.

III. Action by the United Nations system

39. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, through its drug programme, supports the work of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, coordinating and leading United Nations drug control activities and serving as the repository of technical expertise in international drug control for the Secretariat of the United Nations. The Office is the custodian of international conventions to counter the world drug problem. The Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961,[3] the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971[4] and the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988, which have been ratified by nearly all Member States, provide the legal framework for international drug control. The Office assisted States in complying with the provisions of those conventions and supported the International Narcotics Control Board in monitoring their implementation. The Office worked to strengthen the international drug control system through its integrated portfolio of global programmes and regional and country projects, including legislative and capacity-building assistance in addressing problems involving drugs, crime, corruption and terrorism in countries of Africa, the Americas, East Asia, West and Central Asia and Eastern Europe. Protection of the environment is a high priority, as illicit crop cultivation and illicit drug production result in environmental degradation and the safe disposal of seized chemical substances is essential. New initiatives were launched with support from the donor community—ranging from a regional intelligence coordination centre for Central Asia to a container programme in major seaports in Africa, Asia and Latin America, aimed at disrupting the flow of illicit commodities. Furthermore, in order to strengthen programmatic responses, the Office continues to assist Member States and the international community to improve data collection and analysis.

40. In June 2004, the Office published the two-volume *World Drug Report 2004*,[5] which now merges the former *Global Illicit Drug Trends* with the *World Drug Report* and will be published annually. In June 2005, the Office launched the *World Drug Report 2005*,[6] which incorporated two new research initiatives: the establishment of standardized indicators on the evolution of the global drug problem; and a methodology for calculating the proceeds of the global illicit drug markets, the value of which is estimated at $322 billion.

41. Initiatives to maintain and strengthen dialogue with Member States continued, aimed at facilitating provision by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs of policy guidance concerning priorities and management to the Office on its drug programme, with regular intersessional meetings of the Commission and of the extended bureau. In the area of strengthening dialogue and cooperation with multilateral development banks and institutions, following consultations between the Office and the World Bank, the two bodies agreed in July 2004 to work together to implement a set of action plans, covering specific geographical regions and countries (Afghanistan, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, the Caribbean and Central Asia) and thematic areas (money-laundering/financing of terrorism, corruption, drug abuse and HIV/AIDS). The first phase of this collaborative arrangement covers a wide range of topics, such as information-sharing; complementarity of work; and joint activities. In 2005, an agreement was concluded with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization identifying common areas of work, such as alternative livelihood programmes. Similar forms of

partnerships will be developed with regional financial institutions and other organizations. In June 2005, the Office published a major study, entitled *Crime and Development in Africa*,[7] which covers the illicit drug market on that continent. The study will serve as a basis for the development of an African programme of action, to be discussed at a Round Table for Africa, to be held in Abuja, on 5 and 6 September 2005.

A. Drug demand reduction

42. The Global Assessment Programme on Drug Abuse has contributed to the further improvement of drug abuse information systems in a number of countries.[8] To date, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime has provided technical assistance under the Global Assessment Programme to over 50 countries in the form of training, situation analysis and network establishment. The Global Youth Network against Drug Abuse project now links approximately 300 youth groups and community-based organizations working on the prevention of substance abuse among young people.[9] From July 2004 to June 2005, the Office chaired the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) Committee of Cosponsoring Organizations, drawing attention to the need to address HIV/AIDS prevention and care programmes for injecting drug users. The Office remained the convening agency for UNAIDS on injecting drug use issues through the inter-agency task team on injecting drug use and the United Nations Reference Group on HIV/AIDS Prevention and Care among injecting drug users in Developing and Transitional Countries in 2004.

43. At its forty-eighth session, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs focused special attention on HIV/AIDS, with a thematic debate on drug abuse prevention, treatment and rehabilitation in the context of community capacity-building and preventing HIV/AIDS and other blood-borne diseases. The Commission adopted resolution 48/12, entitled "Expanding the capacity of communities to provide information, treatment, health care and social services to people living with HIV/AIDS and other blood-borne diseases in the context of drug abuse and strengthening monitoring, evaluation and reporting systems", in which it encouraged Member States to continue to incorporate drug abuse prevention and treatment measures in relation to HIV/AIDS and other blood-borne diseases into their various socio-economic development programmes, especially programmes designed to enhance the social and economic empowerment of women and child welfare.

B. Supply reduction and law enforcement

44. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime continued to serve as the secretariat of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, the Subcommission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East and the regional meetings of heads of national drug law enforcement agencies. Four meetings of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs were held in 2004.[10] In 2005, the Sixth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Europe, was held in Vienna from 7 to 11 February; and the Fifteenth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa,

met in Ouagadougou, from 29 March to 1 April, with three more meetings planned for later in the year. Following a review of trends in drug trafficking and regional and subregional cooperation, each of the subsidiary bodies addressed drug law enforcement issues of priority in its region. Consideration of those issues was facilitated by the discussions that had been held during informal meetings of the working groups established for that purpose. In addition, the implementation of previous recommendations was reviewed by all subsidiary bodies. The Commission on Narcotic Drugs considers the reports of its subsidiary bodies annually.

45. Working in cooperation with international and regional law enforcement partner agencies, such as the International Criminal Police Organization (Interpol), the Customs Cooperation Council, also known as the World Customs Organization and the European Police Office (Europol), the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime has contributed to building up capacity within law enforcement agencies and assisted in their efforts to ensure operational coordination to combat cross-border trafficking. To assist Member States in addressing the threat from illicit drug trafficking and related cross-border crime, technical law enforcement assistance has been provided in all regions of Africa, Central Asia and Afghanistan, the Balkans, South-East and South-West Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean. Such assistance covered precursor chemical control, promoting operational information-sharing, information systems for developing operational intelligence, specialist training and provision of the Office's e-learning system of interactive computer-based training, support in forging operational agreements between agencies and the provision of technical equipment. An important initiative to improve operational cooperation between law enforcement agencies in Central Asia was launched by the Office to establish a Central Asian Regional Information and Coordination Centre. In addition, to meet the challenge of trafficking by sea container, the Office has launched a global initiative to establish effective controls over containers to prevent their use for illicit drug trafficking, precursor chemical diversion and other illicit activity.

46. The Commission recommended to the Economic and Social Council that the Council approve, for adoption by the General Assembly, a draft resolution entitled "Providing support to Afghanistan with a view to ensuring effective implementation of its Counter-Narcotic Implementation Plan". It was noted with concern that the report of the Office entitled "Afghanistan: Opium Survey 2004"[11] showed that the cultivation of opium poppy in Afghanistan had increased to an unprecedented level and stressed that threats to the security and stability of that country, neighbouring regions and the entire world had emanated from the increased illicit cultivation of opium poppy and production of and trafficking in illicit drugs. It called upon the international community to provide the necessary technical and financial support to the objectives of the Counter-Narcotic Implementation Plan of the Government of Afghanistan.

47. In the area of money-laundering prevention, the Office continued to deploy professional expertise in the field to train people and build institutional capacities, delivering direct technical assistance in States and regions. Current mentor assignments include Central Asia, the Philippines, Eastern and Southern Africa, the Pacific Islands and the Financial Transactions and Reports Analysis Centre of Canada. The Office organized, in cooperation with the Egmont Group of Financial Intelligence Units, several meetings and workshops.

C. Alternative livelihoods and protecting the environment

48. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime has focused its work in the area of sustainable livelihoods on providing support to the design and implementation of quality alternative development programmes and projects in all key regions producing illicit drugs. In the Andean countries, the Office has supported generating agro-industries with proven markets, producing cash and food crops, agroforestry productive systems and microenterprises.

49. The Office supported the Governments of seven countries in carrying out illicit crop monitoring surveys in 2004.[12] The Illicit Crop Monitoring Programme assists the international community and Governments concerned in monitoring the extent and evolution of the illicit cultivation of narcotic crops. The results compiled by the Office to determine global estimates on an annual basis enable the international community to guide and assess the progress of the measures implemented to reach the objective of eliminating or reducing significantly illicit crop cultivation by the year 2008. The results of the surveys have also assisted the Governments concerned in planning the delivery of alternative development and poverty alleviation interventions.

D. Strengthening the drug programme of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

50. In the area of financial support to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs adopted resolution 48/3, entitled "Securing assured and predictable voluntary funding for the Fund of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme", which requested the Executive Director to continue his efforts, in cooperation with Member States, to broaden the donor base and to increase voluntary contributions to the Fund, including, in particular, general-purpose funds, as well as funds earmarked for the support budget. It also requested the Executive Director to keep Member States informed on the use of general-purpose funds, as set out in the guidelines for their use, and to monitor the ratio between the programme and the support budgets to ensure that support costs were not increased to the detriment of expenditure on programmes.

51. In its resolution 48/2, entitled "Strengthening the drug programme of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the role of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs as its governing body", the Commission encouraged the ongoing process of reform of the Office, designed to create more effective and efficient organizational practices, and requested the Office to maintain a culture of continuous improvement in management practices. In the same resolution, the Commission also encouraged the ongoing review of financial management, expected that it would allow the Office and Member States to assess the cost, impact and effectiveness of operational activities in an open manner and contribute to the full introduction of results-based budgeting, and looked forward to the continued development of the system, including the implementation of results-based management. It supported the efforts of the Executive Director in forming and developing partnerships with international organizations and other international entities, to ensure that issues relating to the world drug problem became an integral part of the sustainable development agenda.

IV. Conclusions and recommendations

52. Progress continues to be made to enhance international cooperation against the world drug problem. The information provided by Member States for the third biennial reporting period, from June 2002 to June 2004, indicated that considerable progress has been made towards meeting the goals set for 2008 by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session. A growing proportion of States have developed and are implementing a multisectoral and coordinated national drug control strategy, including national demand reduction plans or strategies, which provide the political and strategic foundations for effective and coordinated drug control action. The percentage of States that have adopted national plans or programmes to reduce and eliminate the cultivation of illicit crops is also growing and more States have included alternative development measures in those plans or programmes. The legal framework pertaining to the illicit manufacture of, trafficking in and abuse of synthetic drugs, particularly amphetamine-type stimulants, has been enhanced and the control of precursors strengthened. Most States have, meanwhile, adopted legislation against money-laundering, including provisions for the freezing, seizure and confiscation of proceeds of crime, while the percentage of States that have reviewed, simplified or strengthened judicial cooperation procedures since 1998 continues to increase.

53. However, much remains to be done, especially relating to implementation of legislative measures adopted in relation to international cooperation. Procedural, logistical, technical and financial problems still hamper the execution of requests for judicial cooperation. Also often lacking are the expertise and capacity required to combat money-laundering successfully, including by the freezing, seizure and confiscation of criminal assets. The countries most affected by illicit crop cultivation need further capacity-building, programme coordination, the establishment of monitoring and impact evaluation systems and long-term socio-economic development in order to sustain illicit crop eradication and alternative development efforts and to prevent the re-emergence of illicit crops. Further efforts are required to strengthen precursor control and to combat the illicit manufacture of and trafficking in amphetamine-type stimulants. In this regard, law enforcement action and cooperation needs to be strengthened, the operational capabilities of forensic laboratories improved and partnerships with the chemical and pharmaceutical industries further enhanced. Such action should be combined with efforts to prevent the abuse of amphetamine-type stimulants, especially experimentation by youth, and to treat abuse of amphetamine-type stimulants. In general, more should be done to develop systems for the assessment of the problem of all illicit drugs, comprehensive prevention programmes, treatment and rehabilitation services and programmes to prevent the negative and social consequences of drug abuse, including HIV/AIDS, among injecting drug users and in prison settings. Activities should be evidence-based, involving a range of settings and targeted both at the general population and at especially vulnerable groups such as youth.

54. The Assembly may wish to call on the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, with the support of Member States and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, to continue to monitor carefully the progress of Member States towards the fulfilment of their stated goals, with a view to undertaking a comprehensive review and

assessment of the achievement of the targets and goals set by Member States at the twentieth special session of the General Assembly in 1998.

55. In view of the fact that the success of the analysis through the biennial reports questionnaire relies upon a high level of response, both in terms of the number of States responding and the quality of the information provided, and is fundamental for assessing progress made towards achieving the goals and targets agreed at the twentieth special session of the General Assembly, the Assembly may wish to reiterate its call to States to take into account the outcome of the special session, as reflected in its Political Declaration, and invite States to respond, in a timely manner, to the biennial reports questionnaire on their efforts to meet the goals and targets, as well as on the implementation of the measures to enhance international cooperation to counter the world drug problem, as agreed at the twentieth special session, in order to enable the Secretariat to prepare accurate and comprehensive assessment reports.

Notes

[1] The following countries returned at least one part of the biennial report questionnaire: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bangladesh, Bolivia, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, Germany, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Maldives, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Morocco, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Uzbekistan, Viet Nam, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

[2] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1582, No. 27627.

[3] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 520, No. 7515.

[4] Ibid., vol. 1019, No. 14956.

[5] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.04.XI.16.

[6] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.05.XI.10.

[7] United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, *Crime and Development in Africa* (June 2005).

[8] The Global Assessment Programme completed modules on *Focus Assessment Studies: a Qualitative Approach to Data Collection* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.04.XI.15) and *Ethical Challenges in Drug Epidemiology: Issues, Principles and Guidelines* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.04.XI.19). It also improved the analysis on drug abuse trends through the Weighted Analysis on Drug Abuse Trends.

[9] The work of the Global Youth Network has resulted in a series of publications, including *Drug Abuse Prevention among Youth from Ethnic and Indigenous Minorities* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.04.XI.17); *Schools: School-based Education for Drug Abuse Prevention* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.04.XI.21); and *Monitoring and Evaluating Substance Abuse Prevention*.

[10] The thirty-ninth session of the Subcommission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East, held in Beirut from 26 to 29 October; the Fourteenth Meeting of Heads

of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies (HONLEA), Africa, held in Cairo from 30 May to 3 June; the Fourteenth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Mexico City from 11 to 15 October; and the Twenty-eighth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific, held in Bangkok from 29 November to 3 December 2004.

[11] United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, *Afghanistan: Opium Survey 2004* (November 2004).

[12] Coca surveys in Bolivia, Colombia and Peru; opium poppy surveys in Afghanistan, the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Myanmar; and a cannabis survey in Morocco.

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Strengthening the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme, in particular its technical cooperation capacity

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report highlights the work undertaken in the context of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme in the period under review, including the holding of the Eleventh United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, the entry into force of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its three Protocols and efforts to promote the entry into force of the United Nations Convention against Corruption. It also highlights the technical cooperation activities of the Programme in providing assistance to States to respond more effectively to the challenges posed by transnational crime, trafficking in human beings, corruption and terrorism and to reinforce their institutional machinery for the maintenance of the rule of law. Lastly, it reviews major initiatives related to implementation of crime prevention and criminal justice standards and norms, research and dissemination of information, coordination and mobilization of resources.

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I. Introduction

1. The present report, submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 59/159 of 20 December 2004, focuses on the various features of the work of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in assisting Member States in their efforts to counter the threats of transnational organized crime, corruption, terrorism, trafficking in human beings and other criminal activities while maintaining full respect for the rule of law. It also highlights the main developments during the period under review, updating information contained in the report of the Executive Director on the work of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, entitled "Development, security and justice for all" (E/CN.7/2005/6-E/CN.15/2005/2).

II. Role of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

2. At its fourteenth session, held in Vienna from 23 to 27 May 2005, the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice provided further policy guidance and direction to the Office.[1] Pursuant to Economic and Social Council decision 2004/242 of 21 July 2004, the Commission held a discussion on the theme "Conclusions and recommendations of the Eleventh United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice". The Commission emphasized that the crime congresses represented a unique opportunity to bring together, every five years, the entire criminal justice community, including high-level officials, experts and practitioners, as well as the media and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations. The Eleventh Crime Congress, held in Bangkok from 18 to 25 April 2005, had taken place at an opportune time, allowing the international community to exchange expertise and views on how best to deal with new challenges posed by all forms of crime. This was especially the case in view of the interconnected nature of criminal activities and their serious impact on security, stability and development, as highlighted in the report of the High-level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change entitled "A more secure world: our shared responsibility" (A/59/565 and Corr.1) and in the report of the Secretary-General entitled "In larger freedom: towards development, security and human rights for all" (A/59/2005). The Bangkok Declaration on Synergies and Responses: Strategic Alliances in Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice[2] adopted by the Congress, was a crucial political document laying the foundation for and showing the direction towards strengthening international coordination and cooperation efforts to prevent and combat crime. The Commission also discussed issues relating to international cooperation in the prevention and control of transnational organized crime, including trafficking in persons, corruption, fraud and trafficking in protected species of wild flora and fauna; the strengthening of international cooperation and technical assistance in preventing and combating terrorism; and the use and application of United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice. It recommended six draft resolutions for adoption by the General Assembly and four draft resolutions and three draft decisions for adoption by the Economic and Social Council.

III. Eleventh United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

3. Details on the Eleventh Crime Congress are contained in a separate report of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly at its sixtieth session (not yet issued) and in the report of the Congress (A/CONF.203/18). At its fourteenth session, the Commission recommended for adoption by the General Assembly a draft resolution entitled "Eleventh United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice".[3]

IV. United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto

4. The entry into force, on 3 July 2005, of the Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (General Assembly resolution 55/255, annex) constituted a major milestone. As at 25 July 2005, there were 107 States parties to the Organized Crime Convention (Assembly resolution 55/25, annex), 86 States parties to the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the Convention (Assembly resolution 55/25, annex II), 77 States parties to the Protocol against Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, supplementing the Convention (Assembly resolution 55/25, annex III) and 43 States parties to the Firearms Protocol.

5. A special treaty event was organized by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, in close cooperation with the Office of Legal Affairs of the Secretariat, during the high-level segment of the Eleventh Crime Congress. The special treaty event generated two accessions to the Organized Crime Convention, two accessions to the Trafficking in Persons Protocol, two accessions to and one ratification of the Migrants Protocol and one accession to the Firearms Protocol. Given that the Organized Crime Convention and its Protocols are included in the annual treaty event for 2005, "Focus 2005: responding to global challenges", further ratifications and accessions are expected.

6. The report of the High-level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change identified transnational organized crime as one of the six major threats with which the world must be concerned. Transnational organized crime poses a direct threat to human security and the rule of law and the Panel underlined that organized crime increased the risk of all the other threats by creating opportunities for "uncivil" society. It was further noted that a key trend with respect to transnational organized crime was its growing diversity, flexibility, low visibility and longevity. Based on those observations, the High-level Panel made the following recommendations:

(a) Member States that have not signed, ratified or resourced the Organized Crime Convention and its three Protocols and the United Nations Convention against Corruption (General Assembly resolution 58/4, annex) should do so and all Member States should support the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in its work in that area (A/59/565 and Corr.1, para. 172);

(b) Member States should establish a central authority to facilitate exchange of evidence among national judicial authorities, mutual legal assistance among prosecutorial authorities and implementation of requests for extradition (para. 173);

(c) A comprehensive international convention on money-laundering that addresses the issues of bank secrecy and the development of financial havens needs to be negotiated and endorsed by the General Assembly (para. 174);

(d) Member States should sign and ratify the Trafficking in Persons Protocol and parties to the Protocol should take all necessary steps to effectively implement it (para. 175);

(e) The United Nations should establish a robust capacity-building mechanism for rule-of-law assistance (para. 177).

7. During the period under review, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime provided assistance to Member States in preventing and combating transnational organized crime. The Office organized and participated in regional and subregional meetings to promote ratification and implementation of the Organized Crime Convention and its Protocols, as well as the universal conventions and protocols against terrorism. The Office organized or participated in a total of 22 interregional, regional and subregional meetings involving 141 States, including the following:

(a) Regional ministerial conference of French-speaking countries of Africa for the ratification and implementation of the universal instruments against terrorism, the Organized Crime Convention and the Convention against Corruption, organized jointly by the Office, the Intergovernmental Agency of la Francophonie and the Government of Mauritius, in Port Louis in October 2004;

(b) Study tour for criminal justice experts from Portuguese-speaking countries on the ratification and implementation of the conventions and protocols relating to transnational organized crime, corruption and terrorism, organized jointly by the Office and the Government of Portugal, November 2004);

(c) Regional training workshop for the States members of the Organization of the Islamic Conference of the Arab region, 25 November-1 December 2004;

(d) Regional expert workshop on the ratification and implementation of the universal instruments against terrorism, transnational organized crime and corruption and on drafting of reports to the Counter-Terrorism Committee of the Security Council, organized jointly by the Office with the Government of Cape Verde, December 2004;

(e) Regional expert workshop on international cooperation on counter-terrorism, corruption and the fight against transnational organized crime, for Central and South-eastern European States, organized jointly by the Office with the Government of Croatia, March 2005.

8. The Office also provided technical assistance to a number of States. Legislative assistance was provided to Afghanistan, Brazil, the Congo, the Gambia, Guinea, Morocco and Togo in 2004 and to Burkina Faso, Djibouti, Ethiopia, the Philippines, Sierra Leone and Thailand in 2005. As at 21 June 2005, the Office had provided individual assistance to 55 States.

9. The Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto will hold its second session in Vienna from 10 to 21 October 2005 and will embark on a substantive review of the implementation of the Convention and its Protocols based on the decisions taken at its first session.[4] The Conference is expected to provide guidance on a strategy for the ratification and implementation of the Convention and its Protocols.

10. The attention of the General Assembly is drawn to the draft resolutions recommended for its adoption by the Commission, through the Economic and Social Council, on the "Model bilateral agreement on the sharing of confiscated proceeds of crime or property covered by the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988", "Action against transnational organized crime: protection of witnesses" and "International cooperation in the fight against transnational organized crime".[5]

V. United Nations Convention against Corruption

11. As at 25 July 2005, 124 States had signed the United Nations Convention against Corruption and 29 States had ratified it. On the basis of article 68, the Convention will enter into force on the ninetieth day after the date of deposit of the thirtieth instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession. It is therefore likely that the Convention will enter into force by the end of 2005.

12. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime has started to implement a set of activities to promote the ratification of the Convention and its early entry into force. The Office, in cooperation with the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute, has begun developing a legislative guide for the ratification and implementation of the Convention. A draft of the legislative guide was circulated for comments at the Eleventh Crime Congress and at the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its fourteenth session. The draft is expected to be finalized during the third quarter of 2005 for subsequent publication in the six official languages of the United Nations.

13. The Office has also organized or participated in the following seminars to promote the ratification of the Convention:

(a) Training workshop for national officials, Morocco, October 2004;

(b) High-level Caribbean regional workshop on corruption, organized by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Antigua, November 2004;

(c) National workshop on corruption, Cambodia, June 2005;

(d) National pre-ratification seminar, organized jointly by the Office and the Ministry of Justice of Egypt and in cooperation with the Government of France, Egypt, June 2005. Additional regional pre-ratification seminars are planned and will provide forums to exchange experience and promote measures for the ratification and implementation of the Convention. Legal assistance was also provided to Cambodia and Kyrgyzstan in reviewing and assessing national anti-corruption legislation.

14. The Office continued cooperating with other entities involved in anti-corruption efforts, in particular with the Asian Development Bank, the Commonwealth Secretariat, the Organization of American States, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe. In 2004, the Office became the sixth core agency of the United Nations Global Compact and, together with the Global Compact Office, works with Global Compact participants in promoting the expeditious ratification of the Convention against Corruption and in developing and implementing capacity-building projects for incorporating the Convention into domestic legal systems.

15. The attention of the Assembly is drawn to the draft resolution recommended for its adoption by the Commission through the Economic and Social Council, entitled "Action against corruption: assistance to States in capacity-building with a view to facilitating the entry into force and subsequent implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption".[6]

VI. Technical cooperation and operational activities

16. Technical cooperation activities are implemented within the framework of four global programmes (terrorism, corruption, trafficking in human beings and money-laundering), as well as in the areas of combating organized crime and reconstruction of criminal justice systems, justice reform and crime prevention. They are conducted in a fully integrated manner with the activities undertaken in the context of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, especially in areas such as money-laundering, legal assistance and enhancement of international cooperation.

A. Preventing terrorism

17. In pursuance of its mandates in the area of preventing terrorism,[7] the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime has continued to implement a programme of work centred on providing assistance to Member States, upon request, in ratifying and implementing the 12 universal conventions and protocols against terrorism. A major focus has been delivering assistance to requesting States to incorporate the relevant provisions of the universal conventions and protocols into national legislation and to promote international cooperation in counter-terrorism matters. The work of the Office in these areas contributes to the implementation of the comprehensive strategy against terrorism presented by the Secretary-General in his report entitled "In larger freedom: towards development, security and human rights for all".

18. A separate report on strengthening international cooperation and technical assistance in preventing and combating terrorism is before the General Assembly at its sixtieth session (to be issued), containing detailed information on the technical assistance activities of the Office and the related substantive developments.

19. The technical assistance activities of the Terrorism Prevention Branch of the Office are undertaken in compliance with the decisions and policy guidance of the Counter-Terrorism Committee of the Security Council and in close coordination with the work of the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate. Since the

launch of the global project on strengthening the legal regime against terrorism in January 2003, the Office has supported more than 100 States, either directly or through regional initiatives. During the period under review, technical assistance missions were conducted in 22 requesting States and other joint activities were undertaken with several other States. In addition, regional and subregional workshops were conducted in the period under review (see also para. 7, above) for the Central Asian and neighbouring countries, in Uzbekistan in April 2005; for Central and Latin American countries, organized jointly with the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism of the Organization of American States and the Latin American Institute for the Prevention of Crime and Treatment of Offenders, in Costa Rica, in October 2004 and March 2005; for Central and South-eastern European States, in Croatia in March 2005; and for Portuguese-speaking countries and several West African countries, in Cape Verde in December 2004. In addition, a study tour for Portuguese-speaking countries was organized in November 2004 jointly with the Ministry of Justice of Portugal and a regional ministerial conference of French-speaking countries of Africa was held in cooperation with the Intergovernmental Agency of la Francophonie in Mauritius in October 2004.

20. To improve planning and harmonization of the various activities in specific regions, regional activity frameworks are being developed under the global programme against terrorism. Numerous initial activities providing legislative assistance have been completed and the work of the Terrorism Prevention Branch is increasingly being focused on the necessary follow-up measures. Increased presence at the country and subregional levels is being achieved through the placement of experts in the field. An increased number of joint activities have been undertaken with international, regional and subregional organizations, which has helped to maximize impact through operational partnerships.

21. The attention of the General Assembly is drawn to the draft resolution recommended for its adoption by the Commission through the Economic and Social Council, entitled "Strengthening international cooperation and technical assistance in promoting the implementation of the universal conventions and protocols related to terrorism within the framework of the activities of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime".[8]

B. Combating organized crime

22. The Office has continued to help countries to improve and strengthen law enforcement and foster international and cross-border cooperation. Training of law enforcement officials, investigators, prosecutors and judges remains a priority. The Office has provided specialized training in modern investigative techniques, developing intelligence that supports operational responses and the use of advanced analysis software. The Office has convened a series of expert group meetings on countering kidnapping, resulting in the drafting of a good practice guide for Member States, to be published at the end of 2005. Another expert group is addressing issues associated with witness protection, which is expected to lead to the publication of a best practice guide in 2006.

23. The Office is working to enhance the capacity of States to investigate, prosecute and adjudicate cases related to organized crime and corruption and to

identify and recover illicit assets. Mentors from the Office are currently working in Guatemala, Peru and Senegal, with also a focus on Ghana, and a further mentor should be placed in Viet Nam in 2005. The mentors implement a programme of technical assistance and training for prosecutors and investigators in the area of organized and serious crime and also provide assistance in legislative reform, as required.

24. The Office has undertaken assessment missions to Armenia, Azerbaijan, Ecuador, Georgia, Ghana, Guatemala and Indonesia and is engaged in reviewing technical assistance needs in the countries covered by its field offices to streamline issues related to combating and preventing organized crime into relevant projects.

C. Combating trafficking in human beings, especially women and children

25. The Office's technical assistance to Member States promotes a comprehensive and multidisciplinary approach in preventing and combating human trafficking, focusing on the criminal justice aspects of trafficking, including victim support and witness protection.

1. Technical assistance

26. Projects are being implemented in Benin, Brazil, Colombia, Lebanon, Nigeria, the Philippines, Poland, the Republic of Moldova, Slovakia, Togo and Viet Nam, as well as for the Economic Community of West African States and the countries of the Southern African Development Community. The projects focus on issues such as assessing trafficking flows, development and implementation of national strategies against trafficking in persons, legal assistance in implementing the Trafficking in Persons Protocol, providing training and capacity-building for law enforcement practitioners and the judiciary, awareness-raising, victim support and increasing cooperation between national and regional partners.

27. The Office is planning additional activities in the following States and regions: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Burkina Faso, Croatia, Ghana, Indonesia, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Lao People's Democratic Republic, Mexico and Central America, Mozambique, Myanmar, Niger, the Mekong subregion and the countries of the Southern African Development Community. In cooperation with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime is working in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia to provide information to asylum-seekers most at risk of falling prey to human traffickers. The trafficking and smuggling situation in the Middle East and North African region is being assessed and the results will be discussed at a regional conference. Legislative assistance, the development and adoption of a declaration and a plan of action against trafficking in persons and capacity-building are being provided to the States members of the Southern African Development Community.

2. Human trafficking and HIV/AIDS

28. The Office, as a co-sponsor of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), is developing a coordinated United Nations system-wide strategy for the prevention of HIV infection among actual and potential victims of

human trafficking and for the care and treatment of HIV-infected trafficked persons. An inter-agency consultative meeting will be held in September 2005, where the strategy will be launched.

D. Promoting anti-corruption policies and measures

29. The Office continued to support efforts to implement the Convention against Corruption. It provided advisory services and technical assistance to more than 20 countries, promoted the celebration of the first International Anti-Corruption Day and undertook the preparation and dissemination of technical publications.

1. Technical assistance

30. Implementation of technical assistance projects continued in Colombia, Indonesia, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Lebanon, Mozambique and South Africa and new projects were launched in Brazil, Kenya, Nigeria and South Africa. Others are under development in Afghanistan, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Iraq, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Nigeria and for the Palestinian Authority. These projects focus on preventing and combating corruption, including through the development and benchmarking of comprehensive anti-corruption policies; the strengthening of integrity, accountability and capacity of criminal justice institutions; the promotion of integrity in the public and private sectors; and the prevention of laundering of the proceeds of corruption and the recovery of assets.

2. Policy development and outreach

31. The Office conducted a workshop on measuring and monitoring of corruption and anti-corruption measures, organized jointly with the Center for the Study of Democracy, and launched a joint project with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) for the promotion of anti-corruption tools to foster small and medium-sized enterprise development, and worked jointly with the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute and UNDP on the elaboration of a manual and electronic library of best practices for the implementation of the Convention against Corruption.

32. The Office, in collaboration with the German Development Agency, is drafting a commentary on the Bangalore Principles of Judicial Conduct (E/CN.4/2003/65, annex), adopted at the Round Table Meeting of Chief Justices, held at The Hague on 25 and 26 November 2002. The Office disseminated a publication entitled *Global Action against Corruption: the Merida Papers* describing experience and good practices that had been presented at the side events held during the High-level Political Conference for the purpose of Signing the United Nations Convention against Corruption. The Office has prepared and disseminated the second, revised edition of the *Compendium of International Legal Instruments against Corruption* and a working paper for the Eleventh Crime Congress on "Corruption: threats and trends in the twenty-first century". Work continued on the *United Nations Handbook on Practical Anti-Corruption Measures for Prosecutors and Investigators*, as well as the draft guide on strengthening judicial integrity and capacity. The Office, with the support of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat,

prepared and disseminated a French translation of the United Nations Anti-Corruption Toolkit, aimed at civil servants.

33. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 58/4 of 31 October 2003, the first International Anti-Corruption Day was observed on 9 December 2004, marked by advocacy activities at United Nations Headquarters in New York and the Vienna headquarters and the field offices of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.

3. Inter-agency coordination

34. The Office continued to promote enhanced coordination and cooperation of efforts to combat corruption through the International Group for Anti-Corruption Coordination, composed of more than 20 international and regional organizations. It serviced the sixth and seventh meetings of the Group, which focused on the prevention and control of corruption in international organizations and in emergency disaster relief situations, respectively.

E. Criminal justice reform and maintenance of the rule of law

35. As the custodian of the United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice, the Office has continued to provide assistance aimed at enhancing the quality of criminal justice in general, including through promoting the protection of victims and the humane treatment of offenders.

Technical assistance

36. The Office's technical assistance activities have focused on improving prison conditions and the treatment of prisoners, victim support, with a particular focus on vulnerable groups, urban security and crime prevention, and criminal justice reform in the context of post-conflict peacebuilding initiatives. Several assessment missions were undertaken during the period under review, including detailed needs assessments in the Caucasus and Iraq to determine project implementation modalities and develop further projects.

37. At its fourteenth session, the Commission recommended for adoption by the Economic and Social Council a resolution entitled "Strengthening the technical cooperation capacity of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme in the area of the rule of law and criminal justice reform".[9]

(a) Penal reform

38. The Office supports implementation of an extensive penal reform programme in Afghanistan, focused on improving prison conditions, which has now expanded outside Kabul to those provinces where prison conditions remain an issue of concern. A project to assist the prison reform process in the Islamic Republic of Iran will include training of prison staff and strengthening of cooperation with international organizations and non-governmental organizations for the implementation of good practices. Assessment missions were conducted in Ethiopia and Georgia, where project development is under way.

39. An expert group meeting on providing effective responses to HIV/AIDS in prison facilities was held in February 2005. Through the United Nations System Chief Executives Board, a study was conducted on the extent of HIV/AIDS in prisons around the globe. Currently, a toolkit and training course for prison officials on effective responses to the spread of HIV/AIDS in prison facilities is being developed and will be piloted in several countries.

(b) Juvenile justice and children in conflict with the law

40. The Office is implementing projects in the area of juvenile justice and children in conflict with the law in Afghanistan, Egypt, Jordan and Lebanon. The projects focus on issues such as the situation of girls in closed institutions, setting up youth care services and reintegration programmes, strengthening institutions responsible for criminal justice responses for children and juveniles and improving the conditions under which juveniles and children are incarcerated. An additional project on supporting the establishment of juvenile courts in Jordan has also recently received funding. Further activities in this area are under preparation. In Colombia, in collaboration with the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime is carrying out an extensive study on the juvenile justice sector in order to develop a programme of technical assistance. An assessment mission to the Palestinian Authority was conducted in July 2005 and a project on supporting reform in the area of juvenile justice is being developed.

41. The Office is the current chair of the United Nations Coordination Panel on Technical Advice and Assistance in Juvenile Justice, established pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 1997/30 of 21 July 1997. The Office contributed to the Panel's recently published practical review of the experience of United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations in project implementation in the area of juvenile justice and children in conflict with the law, entitled *Protecting the Rights of Children in Conflict with the Law*. The Office is coordinating the fifth meeting of the Panel, to be held in Vienna in September 2005 on the theme of juvenile justice reform in societies emerging from conflict.

42. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 57/190 of 18 December 2002, the Secretary-General has initiated an in-depth study of violence against children. The Office is actively involved in the aspects of the study relating to crime, juvenile justice, trafficking in children, child victims and related issues.

(c) Victim support

43. Activities in the area of victim support have continued to expand, with a particular focus on preventing and responding to violence against women. In Africa, an ongoing project has established support centres for women victims of violence in two South African provinces, providing services for the victims and survivors of violence. In addition, a global project to promote practical victim support initiatives assists non-governmental support structures, targeting the needs of victims of violent crime and funding 19 projects in nine developing countries and countries with economies in transition.[10]

44. In May 2005, the Office co-sponsored with the Division for the Advancement of Women of the Secretariat an expert group meeting on good practices in combating and eliminating violence against women, pursuant to General Assembly

resolution 58/185 of 22 December 2003 requesting the Secretary-General to conduct an in-depth study on all forms and manifestations of violence against women.

(d) Crime prevention and urban crime

45. The Eleventh Crime Congress addressed the issue of crime prevention and urban crime. At its fourteenth session, the Commission recommended for adoption by the Economic and Social Council a resolution entitled "Action to promote effective crime prevention", which invites Member States, relevant United Nations entities and programmes and other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to support a more integrated approach to building capacity in crime prevention and criminal justice.[11]

46. Current activities carried out by the Office to prevent urban crime include inter-agency partnerships for safer *favelas* in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, and south-south cooperation to determine good practices in crime prevention in the developing world, concerning Southern Africa and the Caribbean.

47. The Office has also embarked on pursuing a pilot, cross-regional project concept for crime prevention for sustainable livelihood in three cities in developing countries, subject to the availability of extrabudgetary funds. The Office, in cooperation with the Alliance of Non-Governmental Organizations on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, will organize the regional crime prevention forum for non-governmental organizations from Central and Eastern Europe in Vienna on 27 and 28 October 2005, which will address the issue of urban crime prevention in European cities in countries with economies in transition.

(e) Post-conflict reconstruction and the rule of law

48. The Office has contributed its expertise in a number of peacekeeping missions and reconstruction efforts, with the aim of counteracting links between the breakdown of criminal justice systems, organized crime and the presence of corrupt practices, as well as possible links to terrorist activities in post-conflict situations. The Office has thereby supported the development of crime and related drug control strategies; provided legal assistance, training and capacity-building; and assisted in policy development, justice reform and the prevention of HIV/AIDS in Afghanistan, Iraq, the Southern Caucasus, the Andean region, Central Asia, West Africa and the Middle East.

49. The Office, which is part of the Rule of Law Focal Points Network established at United Nations Headquarters, contributed to the report of the Secretary-General to the Security Council on the rule of law and transitional justice in conflict and post-conflict societies (S/2004/616) and provides ongoing inputs into the process initiated by the High-level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change and the subsequent report of the Secretary-General entitled "In larger freedom: towards development, security and human rights for all".

F. Enhancing international and regional judicial cooperation

50. The Office broadened its assistance to States in implementing the mutual legal assistance and extradition provisions of the international drug, crime and terrorism

conventions and protocols. In cooperation with the European Union's border management and drug action programmes, the Office organized workshops in all States of the Commonwealth of Independent States and the Caucasuses on international cooperation in extradition casework and on international confiscation of the proceeds of crime. Similar support was provided to 15 South and Central American countries, to Gulf States and the Organization of the Islamic Conference, as well as to four East Asian countries. The manuals, model laws and model treaties on extradition and mutual legal assistance have been or are being fully revised and updated. The updating and pilot testing of the software for the preparation of mutual legal assistance requests, developed by the Office and available in five languages, has continued in order to enable global distribution to national central authorities during 2005.

VII. Other major initiatives

A. United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice

51. On 15 and 16 March 2005, the Office convened an Intergovernmental Expert Group Meeting to Develop Guidelines on Justice in Matters involving Child Victims and Witnesses of Crime, pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 2004/27 of 21 July 2004.[12] At its fourteenth session, the Commission recommended for adoption by the Council a draft resolution entitled "Guidelines on Justice in Matters involving Child Victims and Witnesses of Crime",[13] by which the Council would adopt the guidelines annexed to that resolution. The guidelines provide a framework to assist Member States in enhancing the protection of child victims and witnesses of crime.

B. Research and dissemination of information

52. Efforts continued to improve the visibility of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme, including the ongoing maintenance and upgrading of the website of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (http://www.unodc.org) and the production of publications and materials on technical assistance projects and best practices. The most recent issue of *Forum on Crime and Society*, which was devoted to crime trends, can be accessed on the Internet at www.unodc.org/unodc/en/crime_cicp_publications_forum.html. Updated statistical data on crime and criminal justice for the period 2001-2002, collected from over 65 Member States through the Eighth United Nations Survey of Crime Trends and Operations of Criminal Justice Systems, are accessed by a large number of users at http://www.unodc.org/unodc/crime_cicp_survey_eighth.html.

53. Pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 2004/32 of 21 July 2004, the Office published in June 2005 a study on *Crime and Development in Africa*, presenting a comprehensive picture of insecurity in Africa and examining how the international community could contribute to a safer Africa. The study covers domestic and global criminal activities, ranging from money-laundering to corruption, trafficking in human beings and drugs, illicit manufacturing and

trafficking in firearms, as well as their connection with the creation and maintenance of child militias in Africa. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 59/159, draft materials for the preparation of an updated publication on world crime trends have been assembled in cooperation with the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute and circulated at the Eleventh Crime Congress and to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its fourteenth session.

54. The multi-source database of the Office on trends in human trafficking provides a great deal of information allowing analysis of global trafficking trends. Training manuals on combating trafficking for criminal justice practitioners were finalized for Benin, Nigeria, Togo and Viet Nam. Manuals are in preparation for Colombia and the Economic Community of West African States, as is a toolkit on good practices. Non-governmental cooperation partners have been identified worldwide in 45 countries for the broadcasting of announcements on human trafficking.

55. The Office should soon complete the preparation of a handbook on alternatives to imprisonment and another on restorative justice. A good practice guide for Member States on countering kidnapping and a training manual for law enforcement officials on effective responses to violence against women are under preparation.

56. A revised and updated version of the *Compendium of United Nations Standards and Norms in Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice* will be finalized in 2005.

C. Coordination and cooperation

57. The Office continued to coordinate the activities of the institutes comprising the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme network. During the fourteenth session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, the network organized a workshop on the theme "Working modalities and substantive results: report on the Eleventh Congress workshops and ancillary meetings", which was coordinated by the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute. In addition, the annual coordination meeting of the network was held in December 2004 in Courmayeur, Italy, on the occasion of the International Conference on Organized Crime and Humanitarian Disasters. The meeting was organized jointly with the International Scientific and Professional Advisory Council. Close bilateral contacts were maintained with the members of the Programme network, most notably with the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute, which is involved in the implementation of several projects under the global programmes of the Office. The institutes were actively involved in the preparation and organization of the workshops for the Eleventh Crime Congress.

58. The Office participates in the United Nations System Chief Executives Board. At its first regular session of 2004, the Board endorsed a series of measures aimed at forging a strategic, system-wide response to transnational crime (see E/2005/63, chap. V). The majority of measures, identified in a note presented to the Board entitled "Organized crime and corruption are threats to security and development: the role of the United Nations", have now been implemented. The measures

included incorporating the issues of crime and corruption within the United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks at the country level. Detailed information was collected from within and outside the United Nations system on (a) links between ongoing conflicts and organized crime; (b) collaborative interventions to counter trafficking in human beings and smuggling of migrants, including responding to the vulnerability of trafficking victims to HIV/AIDS; (c) the involvement of organized crime in the trafficking of a variety of illicit commodities and the responses of the United Nations system; and (d) a global assessment of the extent of HIV/AIDS in prisons. Recommendations for future work by the United Nations system have been identified on each of these issues. In addition, a longer-term plan for joint action to curb transnational crime has been formulated and is being implemented.

59. The Office also participates in the work of the Executive Committee on Economic and Social Affairs, the Executive Committee on Peace and Security and the United Nations Development Group, continuing to seek effective coordination of its activities with others concerned. The Office is a member of the Millennium Project Task Force on Poverty and Economic Development, which addresses cross-cutting issues such as human rights, good governance, drugs and crime. The Office is also part of the United Nations Rule of Law Focal Points Network, which coordinates communication and activities of 11 departments and agencies involved in judicial, corrections and other rule of law initiatives in peacekeeping and post-conflict situations. The Office has also established close cooperation with UNIDO on corruption-related research and technical cooperation and cooperates with the United Nations Human Settlements Programme on urban crime trends and with the Economic Commission for Europe on the development of statistical tools. The Office continues to coordinate its activities relating to human rights in the administration of justice, including juvenile justice, with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. Within the context of its Iraq Programme, the Office works closely with the United Nations Development Group Iraq Trust Fund in order to ensure coordination in the implementation of project activities.

VIII. Mobilization of resources

60. The donor base of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme has continued to grow and broaden. Contributions and pledges to the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Fund from January 2004 to June 2005 totalled $27,825,478, an increase of $13,626,894 or 104 per cent over the same period for the previous year (see A/59/205 and the annex to the present report). Of those contributions, $26,174,054 (or more than 94 per cent) were earmarked for specific activities. While the increase in the contributions to fund expanded mandates and related technical cooperation constitutes a positive trend, a proportional growth in general-purpose funds is essential in order to provide the basic infrastructure to support the implementation of technical cooperation activities and to allow a greater programme flexibility to respond to growing requests for technical assistance from countries in need.

61. Recognizing the importance of the Fund to respond to the needs of Member States, the General Assembly, most recently in its resolution 59/159, reiterated its call to all States to support the operational activities of the Programme through

voluntary contributions to the Fund. Moreover, in its resolution 55/25 of 15 November 2000, the Assembly decided that, until the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime decided otherwise, the account referred to in article 30 of the Convention would be operated within the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Fund. In its resolution 58/4 of 31 October 2003, the Assembly decided that, until the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption decided otherwise, the account referred to in article 62 of the Convention would also be operated within the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Fund.

IX. Action taken by Member States

62. Pursuant to General Assembly resolutions 59/155, 59/157 and 59/159, all of 20 December 2004, various countries provided relevant information,[14] including on the status of ratification of the Organized Crime Convention,[15] the Protocols thereto[16] and the Convention against Corruption.[17] A number of countries reported on their efforts and progress in the fight against transnational organized crime and corruption, including the adoption of new legislation or the revision of existing legislation in line with the provisions of those legal instruments.[18] The establishment of specialized bodies and offices to deal with transnational organized crime[19] and corruption[20] was reported by various States; while several countries reported on national action plans, strategies and programmes that had been initiated to build or to strengthen national capacity to respond to the threat of transnational organized crime,[21] including trafficking in human beings and smuggling of migrants, and corruption.[22] Several States reported on bilateral and multilateral agreements that had been concluded in order to facilitate international cooperation between law-enforcement agencies on extradition and mutual legal assistance.[23] Some States provided information on actions taken in order to raise awareness and provide technical assistance to other countries regarding the Organized Crime Convention and the Protocols thereto[24] as well as the Convention against Corruption.[25] The importance of technical assistance provided to countries for the ratification and implementation of the Conventions and the Protocols was acknowledged in various replies.

X. Conclusions and recommendations

63. The sixtieth anniversary of the United Nations presents an opportunity for Member States to translate the international calls for a stronger and strengthened partnership against terrorism, drugs, organized crime and corruption into further measures to address the needs of States in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice. This would include, inter alia, consideration of the resources available to the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme to deal effectively with the expanding mandates to be implemented, especially those pertaining to the Organized Crime Convention and the Protocols thereto, the Convention against Corruption, which is likely to enter into force by the end of 2005, the promotion of the ratification of the universal conventions and protocols against terrorism, as well as issues related to the promotion and implementation of standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice.

64. In view of the above, the Assembly may wish to consider and decide:

(a) To urge Member States to ratify or accede to the universal conventions and protocols against international terrorism, the Organized Crime Convention and its Protocols and the Convention against Corruption, so as to ensure their full implementation, including by drawing on, where appropriate, the services available for that purpose in the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime;

(b) To reaffirm the high priority of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme with respect to the enhancement of technical cooperation and the provision of technical advisory services to Member States, upon request, to assist them in meeting the challenges posed by transnational organized crime, trafficking in persons, corruption, international terrorism and criminal justice reform, including in the context of post-conflict reconstruction;

(c) To invite Member States, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, international financial institutions and the private sector to make or increase significantly their contributions to the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Fund with a view to enabling the Programme to respond to the increasing demands for technical assistance and to further expand its impact and outreach, including at the field level, as well as to encourage more active participation and involvement of the entire United Nations system in its activities.

Notes

[1] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2005, Supplement No. 10* (E/2005/30).

[2] A/CONF.203/18, chap. I, resolution 1.

[3] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2005, Supplement No. 10* (E/2005/30), chap. I, sect. A, draft resolution II.

[4] CTOC/COP/2004/6 and Corr.1.

[5] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2005, Supplement No. 10* (E/2005/30), chap. I, sect. A, draft resolutions I, III and IV.

[6] Ibid., draft resolution V.

[7] See General Assembly resolutions 56/123, 56/261, 57/173, 58/81, 58/136, 58/140, 59/153 and 59/159, Economic and Social Council resolution 2002/19 and Security Council resolution 1535 (2004).

[8] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2005, Supplement No. 10* (E/2005/30), chap. I, sect. A, draft resolution VI.

[9] Ibid., sect. B, draft resolution II.

[10] India, Indonesia, Mexico, Pakistan, the Republic of Moldova, South Africa, Thailand, Uganda and Ukraine.

[11] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2005, Supplement No. 10* (E/2005/30), chap. I, sect. B, draft resolution III.

[12] In its resolution 2004/27, the Economic and Social Council requested the intergovernmental expert group, within the context of its meeting, to take into consideration any relevant material, including the guidelines on justice for child victims and witnesses of crime drawn up by the

International Bureau for Children's Rights, which were annexed to the resolution. The Council invited the Eleventh Crime Congress, under the substantive item entitled "Making standards work: fifty years of standard-setting in crime prevention and criminal justice", during the Workshop on Enhancing Criminal Justice Reform, including Restorative Justice, and during the ancillary meetings of non-governmental and professional organizations, to consider and discuss the issue of guidelines on justice for child victims and witnesses of crime, and invited the intergovernmental expert group to take into account the results of those discussions in carrying out its work. For the deliberations and recommendations of the Congress on these topics, see A/CONF.203/18, chap. V, sect. E and chap. VI, sects. B and C.

[13] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2005, Supplement No. 10* (E/2005/30), chap. I, sect. B, draft resolution I.

[14] Australia, Austria, Costa Rica, the Czech Republic, Egypt, El Salvador, Greece, Hungary, Kuwait, Japan, Latvia, Malta, Mauritius, Mexico, Morocco, the Netherlands, Pakistan, Peru, Portugal, Qatar, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovenia, Spain and Turkey.

[15] Austria, El Salvador, Latvia, Morocco, the Netherlands, Portugal, Serbia and Montenegro and Turkey had ratified the Convention.

[16] Latvia had ratified the three Protocols to the Organized Crime Convention, while Portugal had ratified the Trafficking in Persons Protocol and the Migrants Protocol and was in the process of ratifying the Firearms Protocol. Australia reported on national efforts to ratify the Firearms Protocol. Austria reported that the ratification of the Trafficking in Persons Protocol was currently taking place. The Netherlands had ratified the Firearms Protocol and was ratifying the other two Protocols. The Czech Republic, Hungary and Morocco indicated that the optional Protocols were currently under discussion and examination for the purpose of ratification.

[17] El Salvador, Hungary, Mauritius and Mexico had ratified the Convention, while Australia, Austria, the Czech Republic, Latvia, Malta, Morocco, the Netherlands, Pakistan, Portugal, Qatar, Slovenia and Spain were in the process of ratifying it.

[18] Australia, the Czech Republic, Greece, Hungary, Latvia, Mauritius, Pakistan, Slovenia and Turkey.

[19] Latvia, Morocco and Turkey.

[20] Pakistan and Slovenia.

[21] Greece and Hungary.

[22] The Czech Republic, Hungary, Latvia, Mauritius, Pakistan and Slovenia.

[23] Australia, El Salvador, Hungary, the Netherlands, Slovenia and Turkey.

[24] Australia and Japan.

[25] The Czech Republic, Pakistan and Slovenia.

Annex

Contributions and pledges to the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Fund

January 2004-June 2005
(United States dollars)

Country entity	*Total amount pledged*
Australia	579 675
Austria	150 061
Belgium	409 881
Brazil	947 720
Canada	1 114 884
Chile	1 000
Croatia	1 000
Czech Republic	117 449
Denmark	546 701
France	586 372
Germany	928 975
Greece	135 000
Hungary	69 477
India	6 000
Italy	10 800 579
Madagascar	4 806
Morocco	2 000
Norway	972 712
Qatar	5 000
Republic of Korea	20 000
Sweden	2 610 656
Switzerland	1 241 963
Tunisia	2 452
Turkey	100 000
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	3 070 018
United States of America	3 372 011
Venezuela	4 084
United Nations Development Programme	25 000
Total	**27 825 478**